prices of petroleum products would depend upon the variations in the international oil prices.

Agency for Transportation of Crude Oil

4136. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he had recently shot down Disinvestment Minister's proposal on restoring nodal agency status to Shipping Corporation of India for transportation of crude oil; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Government has decided that preferential treatment for Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) for crude movement and present favoured treatment of TRANSCHART to SCI ships may be continued for 2 years after disinvestment of SCI.

Allocation of Kerosene to Orissa

4137. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the present monthly allocation of kerosene oil to Orissa;

(b) whether any request has been received to enhance monthly allocation of kerosene oil to Orissa; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to allocate minimum 50,000 KL to Orissa as per their requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) Government made monthly kerosene allocation of 25,930 Metric Tonnes (MT) to the State of Orissa for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS) during the first quarter of 2003-2004.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Commercial production of bio-diesel

4138. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU) : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have since taken a decision for the mass production of bio-diesel;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the soil of Rajasthan and particularly areas around Jaipur is most suitable for the production of bio-diesel;